

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A lens driving device comprising:
a lens optical system having a moving lens group movable
along a direction of an optical axis, and a focal length which
can be altered in stages among a plurality of values;

5 a moving lens group frame holding said moving lens group;
an aperture device provided within said lens optical system,
and having ~~an~~ a variable aperture value which can be modified in
both an ascending and descending manner;

10 a single driving source for changing the focal length value
of said lens optical system and the aperture value of said
aperture device; and

15 a driving member driven by said single driving source for
~~performing driving to move~~ said moving lens group frame to achieve
a desired focal length value of said lens optical system from among
said plurality of focal length values, and for then ~~performing~~
driving the aperture device to change the variable aperture value
of said aperture device in either the ascending or descending
manner while maintaining the desired focal length value.

2. (Previously Presented) The lens driving device
according to Claim 1, wherein said driving member includes:

a lens driving cam comprising, in sequential connection, a
first cam region which performs driving to displace said moving

5 lens group frame in the optical axis direction, and a second cam region which does not perform driving to displace said moving lens group frame in the optical axis direction; and

an aperture driving cam formed separately from said lens driving cam for performing driving to change the aperture value
10 of said aperture device when said moving lens group frame is in a state of not being displaced in the optical axis direction due to said moving lens group frame being in said second cam region.

3. (Previously Presented) The lens driving device according to Claim 2, wherein:

said driving member comprises a cam ring of cylindrical shape having a substantially uniform wall thickness; and

5 said lens driving cam and said aperture driving cam are formed in the cam ring of cylindrical-shape as cam holes or as cam grooves.

4. (Previously Presented) The lens driving device according to Claim 2, wherein:

said aperture driving cam is formed so as not to change the aperture value of said aperture device during driving
5 displacement of said moving lens group frame in the first cam region.

5. (Previously Presented) The lens driving device according to Claim 2, further comprising an impelling member, provided in said aperture device, which impels said aperture device in a prescribed direction such that the aperture value of said aperture device assumes a value determined in advance; and

wherein while said moving lens group frame is driven and displaced in the first cam region, said aperture value of said aperture device attains said aperture value set in advance by means of the impelling force of said impelling member, without said aperture device being engaged with said aperture driving cam.

6. (Previously Presented) The lens driving device according to Claim 5, wherein said aperture device is impelled in a direction in which an aperture diameter is decreased.

7. (Currently Amended) The lens driving device according to Claim 1, wherein said driving member is formed such that said moving lens group frame is driven ~~in one direction only~~ to achieve the desired focal length of said lens optical system, and said aperture device can then be driven to modify the aperture value while maintaining the desired focal length value.

8. (Currently Amended) The lens driving device according to Claim 2, wherein said driving member is formed such that said moving lens group frame is driven ~~in one direction only~~ to achieve the desired focal length of said lens optical system, and
5 said aperture device can then be driven to modify the aperture value while maintaining the desired focal length value.

9. (Currently Amended) A lens driving device comprising:
~~at least~~ two moving lens group frames, each capable of different movement in an optical axis direction;

an aperture device provided in one of said moving lens group
5 frames, and having a variable aperture value which can be modified in both an ascending and descending manner;

a cam member including: (i) ~~at least~~ two lens driving cams each having a first cam portion and a second cam portion that are formed successively to drive corresponding moving lens groups,
10 and (ii) a third cam portion formed separately from said lens driving cams; and

a single driving source for driving said cam member to drive and displace said moving lens group frames and to drive said aperture device for changing ~~an~~ the variable aperture value;

wherein:

said first cam portion is provided in a range in which
said moving lens group frames are driven and displaced in the
optical axis direction;

20 said second cam portion is provided in a range in which
said moving lens group frames are not driven and displaced in the
optical axis direction; and

25 said third cam portion drives said aperture device to
change the variable aperture value in either the ascending or
descending manner when said moving lens group frames are in a
state of not being displaced in the optical axis direction due to
said moving lens group frames being in the range of said second
cam portion.

10. (Previously Presented) The lens driving device
according to Claim 9, further comprising control means for
controlling operation of said cam member, as driven by said
driving source, to set a focal length obtained by movement of
5 said moving lens group frames and the aperture of said aperture
device to desired values.

11. (Previously Presented) The lens driving device
according to Claim 9, wherein:

said cam member comprises a cam ring of cylindrical shape having a substantially uniform wall thickness; and

5 said first cam portion, said second cam portion, and said third cam portion are formed as cam holes or cam grooves in the cam ring of cylindrical-shape.

12. (Previously Presented) The lens driving device according to Claim 9, wherein:

 said third cam portion is formed so as not to change the aperture value of said aperture device during driving
5 displacement of said moving lens group frames in the first cam portion.

13. (Previously Presented) The lens driving device according to Claim 9, further comprising an impelling member, provided in said aperture device, which impels said aperture device in a prescribed direction such that the aperture value of
5 said aperture device assumes a value determined in advance; and

 wherein while said moving lens group frames are driven and displaced in the first cam portion, said aperture value of said aperture device attains said aperture value set in advance by means of the impelling force of said impelling member, without
10 said aperture device being engaged with said third cam portion.

14. (Previously Presented) The lens driving device according to Claim 9, wherein said aperture device is impelled in a direction in which an aperture diameter is decreased.

15. (Currently Amended) The lens driving device according to Claim 9, wherein said cam member is formed such that said moving lens group frames are driven ~~in one direction only~~ to achieve a desired focal length value, and said aperture device
5. can then be driven to modify the aperture value while maintaining the desired focal length value.